

**Reference Number:** FOI202223/443  
**From:** Private Individual  
**Date:** 10 February 2023  
**Subject:** The longest period of time that a patient spent on an elective waiting list in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022

**Q1** Please provide the longest period of time that a patient spent on an elective waiting list in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 in each of the following priority categories.

- a) Priority 1 (operation needed within 72 hours)
- b) Priority 2 (surgery which can be deferred for up to four weeks)
- c) Priority 3 (surgery which can be delayed for up to three months)
- d) Priority 4 (surgery which can be delayed for more than three months)
- e) Priority 5 (patients who have requested to remain on the waiting list but to defer treatment because of their concerns about Covid-19)
- f) Priority 6 (Patients who have been offered treatment but have declined to accept for non-Covid reasons, but still wish to remain on the waiting list)
- g) No priority assigned

**A1 a-g** Information exempted under Section 43(2) commercial interests - Due to implementation and changes of priority codes over time, and that priority codes have changed throughout individual patient pathways at various points in time, it is not possible to accurately provide a response to your questions. As priority codes have changed, providing any such data in response to your questions would therefore be misleading or misrepresented. The Trust has assessed the data as exempt from disclosure under Section 43(2) of the Act as the data would or would likely prejudice the commercial interests of the Trust.